

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH
REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

June 13, 2012

MINUTES

The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 6:00 p.m. in the Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Mark Rafanelli, Vice-Chairperson; Valerie Zuercher, Clerk; Theresa Donovan, Paul McFadden, Lee Kissinger, and Claudine Pande. Teri Maia-Cicero, Chairperson was absent. Others present: Superintendent Thomas J. Geismar, Director of Administration Robert V. Ross (arrived at 6:32 p.m.), Student Member Angela Russo

ORDER – Vice Chair Rafanelli called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Member Pande read the District Mission Statement.

Open Forum – EWG Teachers’ Association President Maura Skahan addressed the School Committee regarding the delay in negotiating the teachers’ contract and asked members to bargain with the Association in good faith. Donna Gaumond, grade-3 teacher, echoed Mrs. Skahan’s request and told the committee that she wants to teach with no red tape.

Recognitions/Achievements – Teacher of the Year – Anne Padula – Superintendent Geismar introduced Metcalf School grade-3 teacher Anne Padula as Exeter-West Greenwich Teacher of the Year 2013. He offered congratulations and recognized her as a very special person and a wonderful teacher. Principal Almonte and Assistant Principal Fish shared words of endearment from students and fellow-teachers about Ms. Padula. On behalf of the School Committee, Vice Chair Rafanelli presented Ms. Padula with a School Committee Apple Recognition Award and expressed appreciation for all that teachers do.

Student Member – Angela Russo – Superintendent Geismar acknowledged Student Member Angela Russo’s great career as the 2011– 2012 EWG Student Representative on the School Committee. He said that Angela is a remarkable young woman who is extremely intelligent and hardworking and she will be missed. Vice Chair Rafanelli said that he has known Angela since she was 8-years old when she was a member of his wife’s Brownie Troop. He said that he is certain that Angela has a tremendous future ahead of her. On behalf of the entire committee, he thanked Angela very much for her commitment and presented her with a School Committee Recognition Award and gift card.

PRESENTATION – Student Member Report – Student Member Russo reported that last Thursday the juniors hosted the last prison ball tournament of the school year. This week is senior week. Last night, seniors attended Movie Night in the gymnasium, which was cool. Today was graduation rehearsal and the senior banquet. This year’s yearbook was dedicated to history teacher Tom Nuzum. Tomorrow is Class Day and during that

event, the Most Outstanding Senior Award will be awarded. Saturday is graduation at 1:00 p.m. at the Ryan Center.

Clerk Zuercher thanked Angela for everything she has done.

Clerk Zuercher made a motion to move up the 2013 DC Trip proposal on the agenda; seconded by Member Kissinger; and voted 6 – 0 in favor.

NEW BUSINESS – 2013 Washington, DC Trip Proposal Approval – Member McFadden made a motion to approve the 2013 Washington, DC trip as proposed; seconded by Member Pande; and voted 6 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Clerk Zuercher made a motion to move back to item, V. B. Special Education Presentation; seconded by Member Kissinger; and voted 6 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Special Education Director Carmella Farrar requested to have the Local Advisory Committee Presentation first. Vice Chair Rafanelli agreed.

Local Advisory Committee Update – Local Advisory Committee (LAC) Chairwoman Mary Beth Cournoyer said that in lieu of giving her annual report, this year she would like to express words of appreciation because on Saturday her son Benjamin will be graduating from the high school. Mrs. Cournoyer recognized Superintendent Geismar and thanked him for always being accessible and for being a pleasure to work with. She said that Ben learned a lot in his years at EWG and has passed every milestone. She recognized Director of Special Services Carmella Farrar who she said, from a parent's perspective is outstanding at her job. Lastly, she thanked the school committee for its work and noted that the committee had a lot of hard choices to make, and it did. EWG gave her son the dignity that he needs and she believes he will be able to intergrade with society and work. She said that although Ben is graduating; she has decided to stay on as LAC chairwoman for one more year because she strongly believes in the LAC. Mrs. Cournoyer presented the LAC By-Laws for School Committee approval and signatures, which is required to allow the LAC to continue.

Clerk Zuercher moved to approve the bylaws for the EWG Local Advisory Committee on Special Education; seconded by Member Donovan; and voted 6 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Each member signed to approve the By-Laws of the EWG RI Local Advisory Committee on Special Education. Mrs. Cournoyer will contact Chair Cicero to obtain her signature.

Special Education Presentation – Director of Special Education Carmella Farrar reported that a team from RIDE recently spent one week visiting our buildings to conduct

a school support visit. They will report back tomorrow on how the district fared. Next, a PowerPoint presentation was shown that offered general information regarding the 2011 – 2012 academic year.

Mr. Ross arrived at this time, (6:32 p.m.).

Child Outreach Coordinator Robin Corsi reported on the Early Childhood Learning Center at Lineham School and Child Outreach Program goals and accomplishments that took place this year.

Student Member Russo left the meeting at this time, (6:30 p.m.).

Julie Quirk and Jennifer Spira shared highlights of their experiences as parents of children attending Lineham School.

Student Member Russo returned to the meeting at this time, (6:43 p.m.).

Teacher Jennifer Connolly gave a brief overview on Metcalf School's ALP program and student accomplishments. Sharon Campbell offered a snapshot on the Life Skills Program that she teaches at the senior high school. Faculty members Joe Renzi and Wendy Miller and Behavior Specialist Kim Regan shared focus points about the ALP program at the high school that helps student to be successful both behaviorally and educationally. In closing, Mrs. Farrar gave a report on the CRP (Consolidated Resource Plan) Grant 2012 and shared data relating to the School Support System Report Findings.

Mrs. Farrar answered members' clarifying questions. Vice Chair Rafanelli told Mrs. Farrar that as successful as the district is, the Special Education Department has successes as well. He expressed appreciation to Mrs. Farrar and her staff.

Clerk Zuercher made a motion to move up the Consent Agenda at this time; seconded by Member Kissinger; and voted 6 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA- Superintendent Geismar gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.

Clerk Zuercher asked for clarifying details relating to Bills – *Asics America* expenditure. Dr. Geismar and Mr. Ross explained that track uniforms and athletic equipment were purchased by individual girls track team members and the coach at a discounted price. Individuals will reimburse the district. Mr. Ross said that he would e-mail a detailed explanation to members regarding the reimbursement amount.

At the suggestion of Member Pande, Amie Ray spoke briefly about her sabbatical leave request.

Member Donovan made a motion to accept the consent agenda; seconded by Clerk Zuercher; and voted 6 – 0 in favor.

The following items were approved:

- A. Approval of Minutes – Special Meeting Minutes of May 20, 2012; Executive Session Minutes of May 20, 2012; Regular Meeting Minutes of May 22, 2012; Special Meeting Minutes of May 22, 2012; Executive Session Minutes of May 22, 2012; Special Meeting Minutes of May 29, 2012; Executive Session Minutes of May 29, 2012; Special Meeting Minutes of June 2, 2012; Executive Session Minutes of June 2, 2012; Special Meeting Minutes of June 3, 2012; Executive Session Minutes of June 3, 2012; Special Meeting Minutes of June 4, 2012; Executive Session Minutes of June 4, 2012**
- B. Personnel Items**
 - 1. Appointments**
 - 2. Leaves of Absence – (ENCLOSED) - (As Recommended by the Superintendent)**
 - a. Request for a Leave of Absence for the remainder of the 2011 – 2012 school year from Dorothy Levesque from her position as 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher Assistant at the Jr. High School, effective March 21, 2012**
 - b. Request from Michelle Livsey to extend her Leave of Absence from her position as 1.0 FTE ELA/Social Studies teacher at the Jr. High School for the 2012 – 2013 school year in order to continue as a Teacher Quality Fellow – *Induction Coach* at the Rhode Island Department of Education**
 - 3. Resignations – (As Recommended by the Superintendent, with Regret)**
 - a. Letter of Resignation from Helen King and Barbara Wilmot resigning their position(s) as Student Council Advisors at the Sr. High School, effective at the conclusion of the 2011 – 2012 school year, on or about June 18, 2012**
 - b. Letter of Resignation from Caitlin Letourneau Blake resigning her position as Webmaster for Metcalf School, effective at the conclusion of the 2011 – 2012 school year, on or about June 18, 2012**
 - 4. Grievances**
 - 5. Non-Renewals**

- 6. Recalls – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)
 - a. Please see Recall of Teacher Non-Renewals – June 13, 2012
 - 7. Sabbaticals - (As Recommended by the Superintendent)
 - a. Request from Amie Ray for a Sabbatical Leave from her position as 1.0 FTE Art Teacher at Wawaloam School and EWG Junior High School, for second semester in the 2012 – 2013 school year
 - C. Bills – In the amount of \$452,751.55
 - D. Home School Approval
 - 1. Grade 8 Student
 - 2. Grade 3 Student
 - 3. Grade 8 Student
 - 4. Grade 6 Student
 - 5. Grade 4 Student
 - 6. Grade 11 Student
 - 7. Grade 1 Student
- End Consent Agenda**

Member Kissinger made a motion to return to item, V. B. Jr. High School Presentation; seconded by Clerk Zuercher; and voted 6 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Jr. High School Presentation – Assistant Principal Christopher Anthony presented data relating to the NECAP Math, Reading and Writing Assessment results comparing district scores to state averages. He said that overall students did well and scores were well above the state average as a whole.

Principal Mary Smith said that the junior high is an awesome place to be. She welcomed members to visit. She presented a PowerPoint that highlighted EWG Jr. High's 2011 – 2012 school year Accomplishments, Activities, Programs, and Challenges.

Principal Smith reminded members that the Moving Up Ceremony is tomorrow night and thanked them for all of their support.

Correspondence – (1) Discipline Reports 9/1/2011 – 5/31/2012; (20 Discipline Repots 5/1/2012 – 5/31/2012

Dr. Geismar said that a comparison of year-to-year discipline data is forthcoming.

2011 – 2012 Monthly Budget Projection – Mr. Ross referenced his Monthly Budget Projection document dated June 13, 2012 and reported a projected June 30, 2012 General Fund balance of approximately 1.3 million dollars.

2012 – 2013 Budget – Including Consolidated Resource Plan Update – Superintendent Geismar reported that extra money for Title 1 in the CRP will provide funding for a .50 FTE elementary teacher to support students in Math in grades 3 and 4.

MONTHLY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT(S) – Policy Subcommittee – Member McFadden said that he had an observation to share regarding the student calculation policy. The president from Exeter Town Council expressed concerns regarding the School Committee giving jurisdiction direction to the town.

IT Subcommittee – Member Kissinger reported that the IT subcommittee is making progress, continues to move along, and is stepping in the right direction with moving to Google Apps.

Public Relations Subcommittee - None

MONTHLY STATUS REPORTS – Superintendent
Business
Technology

2012 – 2013 School Calendar – Vice Chair Rafanelli advised that contingent on the outcome of tonight's executive session discussion, this item may be tabled to the next meeting agenda.

Actuarial Bid Award – Mr. Ross recommended the School Committee award the Actuarial bid to the incumbent and low bidder, USI Consultant Group.

Clerk Zuercher moved to approve the Actuarial Bid Award, based upon Mr. Ross' recommendation, to USI Consultant Group for \$6,900; seconded by Member Kissinger; and voted 6 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

In-District Transportation Contract Extension Approval – Mr. Ross reported on the outcome of the recent negotiations with Ocean State Transit. The final offer from Ocean State included a one-time \$100,000 credit to be taken at a date determined by the School Committee. The final two years of the contract were negotiated down from the original 2.75% to 2.5% and there was a five-year extension until 2019. This extension results in an average increase of approximately \$23,000 annually over the next seven years.

Mr. Ross recommended that the School Committee approve the in-district transportation contract extension with Ocean State Transit through 2019, with the right to a one-time credit of \$100,000 to be taken at a date determined by the School Committee.

Dr. Geismar, Clerk Zuercher, and Member Pande expressed appreciation for Mr. Ross' hard work in negotiating with Ocean State Transit.

Clerk Zuercher moved to approve; seconded by Member Donovan; and voted 6 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Mr. Ross, Superintendent Geismar, and Member Pande expressed how pleased they are with OST services and shared the positive experiences they have had. Mr. Ross answered Member Donovan's clarifying questions.

Superintendent Geismar left the meeting at this time, (8:47 p.m.).

School Lunch Price Increase Approval – Mr. Ross gave a brief explanation regarding the Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) tool, which is used by the government to calculate the local School Food Authority paid lunch requirement. For school year 2013, the PLE for public schools is \$2.51 per meal. EWG will have to make adjustments to pricing to be in compliance. EWG is at \$2.10 for elementary and \$2.35 for secondary, which is below the PLE threshold for 2013. Mr. Ross said that the most the government could compel the district to is .10¢ once a year but will allow the district to round down to a nickel.

Superintendent Geismar returned to the meeting at this time, (8:51 p.m.).

Mr. Ross presented two different meal pricing budgets that meet the PLE requirements. Option 2 gets the district to the PLE. Option 3 puts the district over the PLE. He requested the School Committee to agree to increase the cost of elementary and secondary school lunch prices to either option 2 or option 3.

Clerk Zuercher said that she would like to make a motion to approve.

Mr. Ross answered Members Pande and Donovan's clarifying questions. Member Pande said that she liked option 2.

Clerk Zuercher moved to approve option number 2; seconded by Member Pande; and voted 6 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Members briefly discussed postponing the remaining agenda items to the next regular meeting agenda. Vice Chair Rafanelli recommended having Mr. Ross explain agenda item VII. F. and then moving the rest of the items to the next meeting.

Attorney Vincent Ragosta arrived to the meeting at this time, 8:30 p.m.

FY 2013 General Fund Balance Assignment – Mr. Ross explained the GASB 54 process to classify a portion of the General Fund balance to use for anticipated shortfalls in specific areas of the budget where cuts had been made in order to balance revenues and expenses for FY2013. He said that there is over one-million dollars in the cumulative

General Fund balance and fund access in the WB Community Health account. He anticipates there to be shortfalls of just under two- million dollars for 2013.

Member McFadden said that he would like the School Committee to defer the actual assignment of the funds. Vice Chair Rafanelli agreed that the assignment would be tabled to a later date.

Policies Review/Adoption – 2500: Managing Student Enrollment and Count – 1st Reading and Adoption – Member Pande said this policy is brought for a first reading only because of issues with the towns of Exeter and West Greenwich. An updated version of the policy is enclosed in members’ supplemental packets. This policy will continue to the next regular meeting agenda for a second reading.

Member Kissinger made a motion to move the rest of the items on the agenda to the next meeting; seconded by Member McFadden; and voted 6 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

The following items will carry over to the next regular meeting agenda:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Policies Review/Adoption – 8518: Bullying – Prohibited – 2nd Reading –
Technology Update –
Out of District Transportation –
School Committee Decorum –
NESDEC Superintendent Search –
Capital Project Update –
Reports/Comments –
Important Dates and Meetings – Special School Committee Meeting (Interview Finalists): Monday, June 11, 2012 at 6PM and Friday, June 15, 2012 at 6PM;
Tuesday, June 26-School Committee Meeting-*Facilities Presentation*

EXECUTIVE SESSION – RIGL 42-46-4 and RIGL 42-46-5 – Clerk Zuercher moved to go into Executive Session in accordance with 42-46-5 (2) – CBA – (C94/Teachers’ Association) – Negotiation Discussion and/or Pending Litigation; seconded by Member Kissinger; and voted as follows:

Mark Rafanelli	Yes
Valerie Zuercher	Yes
Lee Kissinger	Yes
Theresa Donovan	Yes
Paul McFadden	Yes
Claudine Pande	Yes

Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 9:07 p.m.

Clerk Zuercher moved to reconvene to Open Session. Member Kissinger seconded the motion. Voted 6 – 0 in favor.

Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 10:26 p.m.

There were no votes taken during Executive Session.

Adjournment – Clerk Zuercher moved to adjourn; Member Kissinger seconded the motion; and voted 6 – 0 in favor. Meeting adjourned at 10:26 p.m.

ROBIN CERIO
CLERK